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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director ORE

DATE: 18 July 1949

FROM : Chief, International Organizations Group

SUBJECT: Failure to receive intelligence as to reports of subversive activities in UN

The New York Times of July 16, 1949 reported a disclosure by Attorney General Clark that approximately 25 persons attached to the UN in New York City were under investigation for possible espionage. On the following day, July 17, 1949, the Times reported testimony by the Director of CIA before a Senate Judiciary subcommittee to the effect that visas had been granted, at the request of foreign governments, to some eighty-two aliens whose background and record of activity abroad gave rise to suspicion as to the subversive nature of their work here. The July 17th Times article did not make it clear whether UN personnel was included among these 82, but suggested that "some overlapping was regarded as possible."

The first information received by G/IO as to these developments, as only too frequently, came from the New York Times. In the case of the July 17th article, the Chief, G/IO was privileged to have this information imparted to him from the electric sign board on the Times Building, 42nd St. & Broadway, New York City.

As long ago as March 3, 1949, G/IO in its monthly report to S/PP pointed out that "G/IO would in general like more information as to the extent of communist influence among and communist affiliations of members of the entire UN secretariat". This requirement was repeated in later reports. It is unnecessary to labor the point that G/IO has a direct and primary interest in information as to any subversive use of the UN. To give only one example, G/IO participates in the ORE International Communism Committee. G/IO cannot urge too strongly the need of making information bearing on this subject available to it without delay. This would seem to be especially applicable to other offices of CIA. It is respectfully suggested that appropriate measures be taken to ensure that in the future such information is made available to G/IO as a matter of S.O.P.

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